



NEWS

TAKING THE REINS: MARINE CORPS WELCOMES NEW COMMANDANT

[Gen. James T. Conway](#) relinquished his post as commandant of the United States Marine Corps to [Gen. James F. Amos](#) during a passage of command ceremony held at Marine Barracks Washington Oct. 22. Amos becomes the first career aviator in the Corps' 235-year history to be appointed commandant and only the second assistant commandant in almost 30 years to be promoted to the Corps' top post. "We've always said we'd be most ready when the nation is least ready," Amos said, during the ceremony. "Our nation still needs that force. That will be my focus as commandant for the next four years."

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GEN. AMOS ISSUES HIS GUIDANCE AS COMMANDANT FOR THE WAY AHEAD

"While we remain focused on combat operations in Afghanistan, leaders at all levels must consider the likely challenges of the next two decades and how the Corps will meet them. The future will be different from the world we knew prior to the attacks on 9-11. Through innovation and a willingness to adapt, we will remain the ready and relevant force that America relies on in times of crisis!" -- Gen. Amos

[35th Commandant of the Marine Corps Planning Guidance >>](#)



MARINES, AFGHANS CAPITALIZE ON SUCCESS IN MARJAH

A neighborhood watch program in Marjah, Afghanistan, is partnering Marines with local Afghan citizens and showing promise in increasing security in what once was a restive Taliban stronghold. Marines of Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, believe conditions in the area make this the ideal time to implement this program, known as the Interim Security Critical Infrastructure or ISCI program. Taliban fighters have become increasingly isolated in the urban sprawl of Marjah, and the Marines and local Afghan forces believe this citizen-run effort will further marginalize the Taliban's presence.

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FEMALE ENGAGEMENT TEAM BUILDS BRIDGES INTO AFGHAN SOCIETY

Female Marines are bridging the cultural gap that is sometimes at the forefront of the counterinsurgency in Afghanistan. In Afghanistan's culture, a woman's modesty is a sanctity closely guarded by everyone. But, specially trained Marine Female Engagement Teams are able to reach across those boundaries, enabling them to go where male Marines often cannot. The team is responsible for engaging with local Afghans to help promote security, governance and development. They gather information regarding the community's needs, and foster communication between US and Afghan forces while respecting local customs.

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MARINES HELP VICTIMS OF SUPER TYPHOON JUAN IN PHILIPPINES



Marines and Sailors with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and Amphibious Squadron 11 responded to the call of the government of the Philippines to help thousands of citizens affected by Super Typhoon Juan Oct 21 - 23. The US maritime team joined with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and other non-governmental organizations to deliver food, water and other supplies to isolated villages which were destroyed by the super typhoon. The U.S. Marines and Sailors provided air support to transport tents, food and water to inaccessible areas as well as gave immediate medical aid to those who were injured.

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MARINES DEPLOY 'GREEN' FORWARD OPERATING BASE TO AFGHANISTAN

The Marine Corps has deployed an experimental forward operating base to Afghanistan to assess how it stands up to rugged operational conditions while relying solely on renewable technology and energy-saving techniques. The Marines of India Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment are moving into position in Helmand province, where it will sustain itself almost entirely using renewable energy. Increased reliance on solar and other renewable energy sources, as demonstrated by the Ex-FOB and other ground-renewable, expeditionary energy systems, or GREENS, are expected to go a long way in helping the Corps reach an ambitious goal of cutting fuel usage by deployed units in half by 2025.

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CORPS' COMBAT CENTER NOW GENERATES 58 PERCENT OF OWN ENERGY

The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif., is leading the Corps' effort in the use of "green" or renewable technology with the recent unveiling of 982 new solar panels. The Combat Center uses a cogeneration plant, which is a power station that generates both heat and electricity, to produce a majority of its own energy. The recently installed solar panels produce renewable energy which helps the base not only go green, but contribute to the self-sufficiency of the base.

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EVENTS

MARINE CORPS MARATHON

[The Marine Corps Marathon](#) will host a thrilling weekend of events welcoming runners, spectators and the public this Saturday and Sunday in Washington DC. The weekend kicks off with the Health & Fitness Expo featuring running products and access to experts and culminates with the 35th running of the Corps' annual marathon featuring 30,000 runners from all 50 states and 54 countries.

JOINT CIVILIAN ORIENTATION CONFERENCE

Nominations are now open for the 2011 Secretary of Defense's [Joint Civilian Orientation Conference](#). The program was designed for civilian public opinion leaders interested in growing their knowledge of the military and national defense issues. Participants attend Pentagon briefings by Department of Defense military and civilian leadership and then join the military in the field observing exercise and participating in training at military installations throughout the United States. If you're interested in the program or nominating an eligible participant, learn more about the [nomination process](#) and contact Capt Al Eskalis at albert.eskalis@usmc.mil.

HERO OF THE WEEK

OPERATION COMING HOME

A group of North Carolina veterans and volunteers are building houses and giving them free to wounded veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Appropriately named "[Operation Coming Home](#)," the project's most recent beneficiary is [Marine Sgt. Stanley Roberts](#), 29, who was wounded in Iraq. Roberts will receive the keys to his new house in Fuquay-Varina, N.C during a ceremony November 4. Roberts served three tours in Iraq before he lost his right leg in combat. He also suffered an injury to his right arm and traumatic brain damage.

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